

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 6-8 and 17-26 are pending in the present application, with claims 6, 7, 17 and 22 being independent.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 6-8 and 17-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondo (US 2003/0043162) in view of Edge et al. (US 6,362,808) and further in view of Adams et al. (US 5,926,647). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

First, Applicants note that the finality of the Office Action is improper because the Examiner introduced a new ground of rejection. Previously, the Examiner rejected claims 6-8, 17-18, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondo in view of Edge et al. The Examiner, however, now rejects the claims under Kondo, Edge et al. and Adams et al. (which was not previously utilized in rejecting independent claims 6, 7, 17, and 22).

Referring to MPEP 706.07(a), it recites in part that a "second or any subsequent actions on the merits shall be final, except where the examiner introduces a new ground of rejection that is neither necessitated by applicant's amendment of the claims nor based on information submitted in an information disclosure statement," emphasis added. Applicants did not amend independent claims 6, 7,

17, and 22 in the response that was filed on April 20, 2004, nor did Applicants submit an Information Disclosure Statement. Therefore, the finality of the outstanding Office Action is improper. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the finality of the Office Action dated July 27, 2004.

Second, Applicants once again respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be substantiated because the cited art fails to teach or suggest all of the claim features. More specifically, as previously submitted, the cited art fails to teach or suggest at least that a multidimensional lookup table is produced and that this multidimensional lookup table is then compressed.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner alleges that Kondo illustrates a multidimensional lookup table in Fig. 5 as the decoder 6, and also references paragraph 0008 of Kondo for support of the feature of producing a multidimensional lookup table.

Referring to paragraph 0008 of Kondo, it is taught that selected colors are used in a conversion table that is referred to as a color look-up table (CLUT). This CLUT, however, is not a multidimensional lookup table. In fact, one skilled in the art would readily appreciate that the CLUT of Kondo is a one-dimensional lookup table.

Referring to Fig. 5 of Kondo, memories 2R, 2G, and 2B are the one-dimensional color lookup tables. To the memories 2R, 2G, and 2B the bits dd(r), dd(g), and dd(b) are separately inputted (e.g.,

without any relation to one another), respectively.

Referring to page 4, second paragraph, of the present application, it is taught that "the process using the multidimensional lookup table...is characterized in that combined data [A1, B1, C1] of the input signals for three channels is performed."

Thus, it should now be evident that the cited art fails to teach or suggest at least the features of producing a multidimensional lookup table, and much less, the feature of compressing a multidimensional lookup table, as recited in the independent claims. Therefore, because all of the features of at least the independent claims are not taught by the cited art, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be substantiated.

Accordingly, in view of the above discussion Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the finality of the Office Action and withdraw the rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, this application appears to be in condition for allowance and the Examiner is, therefore, requested to reexamine the application and pass the claims to issue.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully

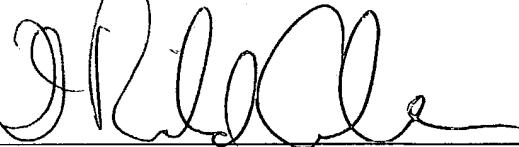
requested to contact the undersigned at telephone number (703) 205-8000, which is located in the Washington, DC area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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